



## ***Day 6 - The Temple Curtain Is Torn***

The curtain of the Temple was hung before the Holy of Holies, which was part of the Temple no one could enter. Jewish worshipers could enter the outer court, but only the priests could enter the Holy Place. And no one, except the high priest on one day a year, entered the Holy of Holies. No one. Why? Because the shekinah glory—the glory of God—was present there.

No one but the high priest entered the Holy of Holies. No one. To do so meant death. In no uncertain terms, the curtain declared: “This far and no farther!”

What did fifteen hundred years of a curtain-draped Holy of Holies communicate? Simple. God is holy . . . separate from us and unapproachable. Even Moses was told, “You cannot see my face, because no one can see me and live” (Exodus 33:20 NCV). God is holy, and we are sinners, and there is a distance between us.

But Jesus hasn't left us with an unapproachable God. “There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5 NIV). When Jesus' flesh was torn on the cross, the curtain was torn in two.

It was as if the hands of heaven had been gripping the veil, waiting for this moment. One instant it was whole; the next it was ripped in two from top to bottom. No delay. No hesitation.

We are welcome to enter into God's presence—any day, any time. God has removed the barrier that separates us from him. The barrier of sin? Down. No more curtain.

But we have a tendency to put the barrier back up with the curtain of our heart. Sometimes, no, oftentimes, we allow our mistakes and guilty conscience to keep us from God.

Don't allow a veil of guilt to keep you from your Father. Trust the cross. The curtain is down, the door is open, and you are welcome in God's presence.

**Mark 15:33-39 NLT**

33 At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. 34 Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" which means "*My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*" (15:34 Ps 22:1.)  
35 Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. 36 One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!"  
37 Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. 38 And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.  
39 When the Roman officer (15:39a Greek *the centurion*; similarly in 15:44, 45.) who stood facing him (15:39b Some manuscripts add *heard his cry and*.) saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

### **Hebrews 9:1-14 NLT**

1 That first covenant between God and Israel had regulations for worship and a place of worship here on earth. 2 There were two rooms in that Tabernacle. (9:2 Or *tent*; also in 9:11, 21.) In the first room were a lampstand, a table, and sacred loaves of bread on the table. This room was called the Holy Place. 3 Then there was a curtain, and behind the curtain was the second room (9:3 Greek *second tent*.) called the Most Holy Place. 4 In that room were a gold incense altar and a wooden chest called the Ark of the Covenant, which was covered with gold on all sides. Inside the Ark were a gold jar containing manna, Aaron's staff that sprouted leaves, and the stone tablets of the covenant. 5 Above the Ark were the cherubim of divine glory, whose wings stretched out over the Ark's cover, the place of atonement. But we cannot explain these things in detail now.  
6 When these things were all in place, the priests regularly entered the first room (9:6 Greek *first tent*.) as they performed their religious duties. 7 But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year. And he always offered blood for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. 8 By these regulations the Holy Spirit revealed that the entrance to the Most Holy Place was not freely open as long as the Tabernacle (9:8 Or *the first room*; Greek reads *the first tent*.) and the system it represented were still in use.  
9 This is an illustration pointing to the present time. For the gifts and sacrifices that the priests offer are not able to cleanse the consciences of the people who bring them. 10 For that old system deals only with food and drink and various cleansing ceremonies—physical regulations that were in effect only until a better system could be established.

### **Christ Is the Perfect Sacrifice**

11 So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. (9:11 Some manuscripts read *that are about to come*.) He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. 12 With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.  
13 Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity. 14 Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds (9:14 Greek *from dead works*.) so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

This reading plan can be found at [www.bible.com/reading-plans/1428](http://www.bible.com/reading-plans/1428)